

Hazardous Material Business Plan



The following information is provided to assist with understanding the Hazardous Material Business Plan program (California Health and Safety Code [HSC], Chapter 6.95, Article 1, sections 25500 to 25520). This information is not to be relied upon as legal advice or interpretation by the Office of Emergency Services or the State of California. It does not create any rights, obligations, or establish any new standards. Local governments often have requirements that are more stringent than state and should be contacted for advice about this program in their area.

MIXTURES OR SOLUTIONS OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

For the purposes of the Business Plan program, the threshold quantity of the hazardous material that determines whether compliance with the program is required or not can be summarized as follows:

- 500 pounds of a hazardous material if a solid;
- 55 gallons of a hazardous material if a liquid; and
- 200 standard cubic feet of a hazardous material if a gas.

But what about mixtures or solutions of these chemicals? How is the threshold value of a hazardous material calculated if it is not pure substance?

HSC Section 25501(o) defines a “hazardous material” as any material that, because of its quantity, concentration or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment, if released into the workplace or the environment.

HSC section 25503.5(a) further states that any business that handles a hazardous material **or a mixture containing a hazardous material** must establish and implement a business plan.

Therefore, if a facility has a mixture containing a hazardous material, as defined above, and this mixture still fits within the definition of a hazardous material, then the entire mixture must be included as part of the facility’s hazardous material inventory.

EXAMPLE:

A facility has 30 gallons of 90% hydrochloric acid. This quantity does not meet the threshold value of HSC 25503.5(a), and the facility is not required to submit a business plan.

The facility’s operator subsequently dilutes the 30 gallons of hydrochloric acid with 30 gallons of water. The result is 60 gallons of a material that, because of its concentration, physical and chemical properties, poses a potential hazard to human health and safety or the environment. The facility now possesses a reportable inventory, and must submit a business plan, even though 45% hydrochloric acid is arguably less hazardous than 90% hydrochloric acid.